



Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Meeting Minutes

Town Council

Mayor James L. Streeter, Councilors Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Paulann H. Sheets, and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

7:30 PM

Groton Senior Center, Route 117

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Streeter.

Members Present: Mayor Streeter, Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Sheets

Members Absent: Councilor Monteiro and Councilor Watson

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger and Office Assistant Lori Watrous.

It was noted that the Town Clerk is absent due to election duties for the Regional Probate Judge Primary.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Lori Watrous.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

None.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2011-0136 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of June 7, 2011 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Administrative Items

2011-0131 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING SPECIAL TRUST FUND CONTRIBUTIONS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

The Sunup Foundation - \$10,000.00 - Library Discretionary

George Marshall - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Lee Vincent - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Aldrich, Perkins, Mulcahy & Heap, LLC - \$250.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

Donald and Carol Pratt donation in honor of John Silsby - \$50.00 - Parks and Recreation

Revolving
 Joellen Anderson - \$100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
 The Pequot Cyclists - \$75.00 - Library Discretionary
 Groton Ledyard Rotary - \$185.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
 Groton Ledyard Rotary - \$1,352.92 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

The Mayor thanked all the contributors for their generous donations, highlighting gifts from the Sunup Foundation of \$10,000 and the Groton Ledyard Rotary of \$1,537.

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2009-0313 Elderly Tax Relief Program Interest Rate

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0199 Interlocal Agreement with Durham to Provide Property Tax Relief for Emergency Services Volunteers

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2011-0066 Montville Request Regarding Pending Legislation

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2011-0132 2011 COPS Hiring Program

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2011-0137 Introduction of Ordinance for Water Pollution Control Facility Improvements

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2011-0138 Scheduling of Public Hearing on Ordinance for Water Pollution Control Facility Improvements

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2011-0139 Referral of Water Pollution Control Facility Improvements to Planning Commission Under CGS 8-24

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2011-0140 Referral of Water Pollution Control Facility Improvements to Water Pollution Control Authority Under CGS 22a-479

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

Passed The Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 6 - Mayor Streeter, Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr. and Councilor Peruzzotti
 Abstain: 1 - Councilor Sheets

VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

a. Town Councilors

Councilors voted in the Primary for the Regional Probate Judge.

Councilor Johnson attended a meeting for the Groton-New London Airport Master Plan, a kindergarten concert at Claude Chester, the summer solstice event at the Library, and the Flag Day celebration in Mystic.

Councilor Kolnaski attended the Ledge Light Health District Board of Directors meeting, and noted that its office in New London is now officially open.

Councilor Flax attended concerts at S.B. Butler and the 8th grade graduation.

Mayor Streeter announced that the new Mystic Schooner Baseball Club will have its opening game on June 24, 2011, at Fitch Senior High School.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

Office Assistant Lori Watrous stated that the next RTM meeting will be on July 13, 2011, at the Senior Center.

c. Clerk of the Council

Office Assistant Lori Watrous reminded dog owners that all dog licenses need to be renewed in June. She noted that polls will be open until 8:00 p.m. tonight for the Democratic and Republican Primaries for the Regional Judge of Probate.

d. Town Manager

The Town Manager stated that there will be an event at the Mystic railroad depot on June 24, 2011. Tickets may be obtained at the Mystic Chamber of Commerce office at the railroad depot during office hours. The Town Manager announced that there will be a farewell celebration for Parks and Recreation Director John Silsby on June 22, 2011, and for Chief of Police Kelly Fogg on June 23, 2011. Mr. Oefinger noted that National League of Cities will hold its annual meeting in Phoenix, Arizona from November 9 to November 12, 2011.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Peruzzotti

No meeting, no report.

b. Economic Development - Chairman Johnson

No meeting, no report.

c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Kolnaski

No meeting, no report.

d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Sheets

No meeting, no report.

e. Finance - Chairman O'Beirne

No meeting, no report.

f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman Flax

No meeting, no report.

g. Public Safety - Chairman Monteiro

No meeting, no report.

h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Watson

No meeting, no report.

i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Streeter

Councilor Kolnaski gave a brief report on the last Committee of the Whole meeting. Mayor Streeter noted that the resolutions on tonight's agenda are a result of both regular and special meetings of the Committee of the Whole.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. NEW BUSINESS**2011-0132 2011 COPS Hiring Program**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT APPLICATION FOR 2011 COPS HIRING PROGRAM (CHP)

WHEREAS, The 2011 COPS Hiring Program (CHP) provides funding directly to law enforcement agencies to hire and/or rehire career law enforcement officers in an effort to create and preserve jobs, and to increase their community policing capacity and crime-prevention efforts, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton desires to hire three police officers to help restore positions lost over the past three fiscal budgets and thereby help restore some of our previous community policing efforts within the Town, and

WHEREAS, the addition of these officers will allow the Police Department to specifically schedule officers to community policing assignments such as bicycle patrol, foot patrol, and attendance at community and local business meetings in an effort to further develop police and community partnerships thereby improving the quality of community life and public safety, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger or his designated agent may apply for a 2011 COPS Hiring Program (CHP) grant in the amount of \$813,087 which, if awarded, covers 100 percent of the approved entry-level salary and fringe benefits of three newly-hired and/or rehired, full-time sworn career law enforcement officer over the first three years (36 months).

A motion was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2011-0137 Introduction of Ordinance for Water Pollution Control Facility Improvements

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$2,700,000 FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF BONDS, NOTES AND OBLIGATIONS IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GROTON:

Section 1. That the sum of TWO MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$2,700,000) is appropriated for improvements to the Water Pollution Control Facility, contemplated to include: (a) upgrades to the Effluent Pump Station including the replacement of pumps, piping and valves, the installation of variable frequency drives for electrical efficiency and system reliability, electrical equipment replacements, new instrumentation and controls, and incorporation of the station into the Water Pollution Control Facility's SCADA system; (b) rehabilitation of Secondary Clarifier No. 2 including removal and replacement of the existing clarifier equipment, upgrades to the existing electrical interconnections with the Water Pollution Control Facility's SCADA control system, and related structural and site work; (c) upgrades to the Gravity Thickeners including removal and replacement of the existing steel thickening mechanism and superstructure, replacement of the major gear drive unit, repair of deteriorating concrete, upgrades to the existing electrical equipment and connections, modifications to the Water Pollution Control Facility's SCADA system, and related structural and site work; and (d) related work and improvements. The Town Council may reduce or modify the scope of the project and the entire appropriation may be spent on the project as so reduced or modified. The appropriation may be spent for design, construction, acquisition and installation costs, equipment, materials, site improvements, engineering fees, management costs, inspection costs, printing costs, legal fees, net interest on borrowings and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project or its financing.

Section 2. That the Town issue bonds or notes or obligations in an amount not to exceed TWO MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$2,700,000) to finance the appropriation for the project. The amount of bonds or notes or obligations authorized to be issued shall be reduced by the amount of grants received by the Town for the project. The bonds or notes or obligations shall be issued pursuant to Section 7-259 or Sections 22a-475 to 22a-483 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, and any other enabling acts. The bonds or notes or obligations shall be secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town of Groton. The Town does hereby covenant and agree with the holders of the bonds or notes or obligations and all notes and interim funding obligations issued in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds from the sale of such bonds or notes or obligations that in each year while any such bonds or notes or obligations are outstanding, it will levy and collect ad valorem taxes upon all taxable properties within the Town, other than properties within the City of Groton, in an amount sufficient, with such other funds of the Town as shall be available for such purpose, to pay the interest and principal on the bonds or notes or obligations as the same become due and payable.

Section 3. That the Town issue and renew temporary notes or interim funding obligations from time to time in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds from the sale of the bonds or notes or obligations and the receipt of grants for the project. The amount of the notes or obligations outstanding at any time shall not exceed TWO MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$2,700,000). The notes or obligations shall be issued pursuant to Section 7-264 and 7-378 or Sections 22a-475 to 22a-483 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended. The notes or obligations shall be secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town, payable as provided in Section 2. The Town shall comply with the provisions of Sections 7-378a and 7-378b of the General Statutes with respect to any notes that do not mature within the time permitted by said Sections 7-264 or 7-378, and the Town shall comply with the provisions of Section 22a-479(c) with respect to any obligations.

Section 4. That the Town Council shall determine the amount of bonds, notes or obligations authorized by Section 2 to be sold. The Town Manager and the Director of Finance shall determine the amount of any temporary notes or interim funding obligations authorized by Section 3 to be sold. The Town Manager and the Director of Finance of the Town shall sign any bonds or notes or obligations by their manual or facsimile signatures. The law firm of Day Pitney LLP is designated as bond counsel to approve the legality of the bonds or notes or obligations. The Town Manager and the Director of Finance are authorized to determine the dates, interest rates, maturities, redemption provisions, form and other details of the bonds or notes or obligations; to provide for the keeping of a record of the bonds or notes or obligations; to designate one or more banks or trust companies to be certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent for the bonds or notes or obligations; to designate a financial advisor to the Town in connection with the sale of the bonds or notes or obligations; to sell the bonds or notes or obligations at public or private sale; to deliver the bonds or notes or obligations; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds or notes or obligations.

Section 5. That the Town hereby declares its official intent under Federal Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2 that project costs may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that (except to the extent reimbursed from grant moneys) the Town reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing authorized above for the project. The Town Manager and the Director of Finance are authorized to amend such declaration of official intent as they deem necessary or advisable and to bind the Town pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds or notes or obligations authorized by this resolution if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

Section 6. That the Town Manager and the Director of Finance are authorized to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the bonds or notes or obligations to provide secondary market disclosure information, which agreements may include such terms as they deem advisable or appropriate in order to comply with applicable laws or rules pertaining to the sale or purchase of such bonds or notes or obligations.

Section 7. That the Town Manager, on behalf of the Town, is authorized to apply for and accept state grants to finance the project and state loans to finance the project, and to enter into any grant or loan agreement prescribed by the State. The Town Manager, the Director of Finance and the Water Pollution Control Authority are authorized to take any other actions necessary to obtain such grants or loans pursuant to Section 22a-479 of the Connecticut General Statutes, Revision of 1958, as amended, or to any other present or future legislation, or to implement such grant or loan agreements.

Section 8. That the Water Pollution Control Authority is authorized to construct the sewer project; to approve design and construction expenditures and any easement acquisition costs incurred for the sewer project; and to contract with engineers, contractors and others on behalf of the Town for said sewer project. All such authority is subject to the provisions of Section 1.

Section 9. That the Town Manager, the Director of Finance, the Water Pollution Control Authority and other proper officers of the Town are authorized to take all other action which is necessary or desirable to complete the project and to issue bonds or notes or obligations to finance the aforesaid appropriation.

Section 10. This ordinance shall become effective only if it has been adopted by vote of not less than five (5) members of the Town Council and by the Representative Town Meeting, and only if the appropriation set forth in Section 1 and the issuance of bonds and notes and obligations to finance said appropriation have been approved by the voters at referendum in accordance with Sections 5.5.5.1 and 9.13 of the Town Charter, and notice of passage has been published in accordance with the provisions of the Town Charter.

Notify RTM

A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Flax, that this matter be Introduced by the Mayor and Referred for Information only to the RTM to the Representative Town Meeting.

The motion carried unanimously

2011-0138

Scheduling of Public Hearing on Ordinance for Water Pollution Control Facility Improvements

RESOLUTION SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING DATE ON AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$2,700,000 FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF BONDS, NOTES AND OBLIGATIONS IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION

RESOLVED, that the Town Council will hold a public hearing on an Ordinance Appropriating \$2,700,000 for Improvements to the Water Pollution Control Facility and Authorizing the Issue of Bonds, Notes and Obligations in the Same Amount to Finance Said Appropriation, on Tuesday, July 5, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in Town Hall Annex Community Room 1.

A motion was made by Councilor Sheets, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

Councilor Sheets stated that the Town was notified by the State that if it waits until the general election it will not get the money for this crucial upgrade. She also noted that if the pumps break down, the Town would face fines of \$25,000 per day.

The Town Manager remarked that the cost of the project will be \$2.7 million, with \$900,000 being

a grant and the remainder bonded at a low interest rate. He noted that between the grant and the lower interest rate, the Town would save a little over \$1 million. The Town Manager believes that cost of a special referendum (\$25,000) is outweighed by these savings.

The motion carried unanimously

2011-0139

Referral of Water Pollution Control Facility Improvements to Planning Commission Under CGS 8-24

RESOLUTION REFERRING WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION UNDER CGS 8-24

WHEREAS, the Town Council has reviewed a proposal for Improvements to the Water Pollution Control Facility, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council considers it appropriate to present the project to the Town's voters in a bond referendum, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council refers the Water Pollution Control Facility Improvements to the Planning Commission, pursuant to CGS 8-24.

A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be Adopted and Referred to the Planning Commission, due back on July 5, 2011.

The motion carried unanimously

2011-0140

Referral of Water Pollution Control Facility Improvements to Water Pollution Control Authority Under CGS 22a-479

RESOLUTION REFERRING WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS TO THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY UNDER CGS 22a-479

WHEREAS, the Town Council has reviewed a proposal for Improvements to the Water Pollution Control Facility, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council considers it appropriate to present the project to the Town's voters in a bond referendum, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council refers the Water Pollution Control Facility Improvements to the Water Pollution Control Authority Under CGS 22a-479.

A motion was made by Councilor Peruzzotti, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted and Referred to the Water Pollution Control Authority, due back on July 5, 2011.

The Town Manager stated that there are three parts to the project: (1) the upgrade to the pump station at \$1.4 million, (2) a secondary clarifier at \$600,000, and (3) upgrades to the gravity thickeners at \$700,000. He noted that the clarifier and gravity thickeners have not been upgraded since the early 1970's.

The motion carried unanimously

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

The Town Manager noted that there are not many outstanding referral items.

By consensus, Councilors agreed to cancel the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 7:57 p.m. was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*

Lori Watrous, Office Assistant